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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph commencing on page 3 with the text "In accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention ..." as follows:

-- In accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention, there is provided an order merging system, the system comprising: at least two depalletizing stations, each depalletizing station being dedicated to a different respective product unit depalletized thereon; for each depalletizing station, at least one pair of first case guides in communication therewith and having at least one pair of curved, twisted and downwardly sloping lanes, the first case guides being downwardly sloped for guiding at least one product case of the respective product unit for the depalletizing station therealong in each of the first case guides; for each pair of first case guides, at least one pair of raisable guides connected downstream thereof of the first case guides and in respective communication therewith; at least one pair of independent mixing second case guides of a mixing conveyor for receiving mixed product cases thereon to feed the cases away from the at least two depalletizing stations and located downstream therefrom, each said second case guide being in communication with a respective one of said with the raisable guides, the raisable guides being lowerable lowered to allow the product cases of the respective product unit for the depalletizing station from each said from the first case guides guide to selectively merge onto a respective said onto the second case guides guide, each said raisable guide allowing flowing of mixed product cases located onto respective said second case guide thereunder when in a raised position. --